

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:20:11 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:43:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:37
IP Address: 129.222.4.96

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **james r harmonay**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **james.harmonay@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I generally support increasing hunter opportunity and mountain lion harvest. I also believe being able to use tags in LMU that haven't reached their quotas is a good idea.

#2

COMPLETE

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IP Address: 76.127.184.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jon Way
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jw9802@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I live and recreate in Montana (and surrounding areas) specifically to see wildlife. At the top of the list are predators including bears, mtn. lions, and wolves, as well as coyotes. I am against any plan to increase the hunting of these ecologically important, sentient animals. Stop catering to a small minority and protect these animals. Montanans should be proud to have these animals in abundance. All the special interest MT game and parks want is to kill these animals. It is pathetic and the entire structure of fish and game agencies needs to change. Your management of predators reflects that. My tax money is spent watching these animals, not killing them. So protect them. Now! I want more of these animals in more places.

#3

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Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2023 2:24:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:18
IP Address: 174.56.51.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Stephen Capra
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: stephen@bvconservation.org

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

It is nothing short of disgraceful that you are prepared to kill up to 40 percent of lions in the state. You lack the data for such a kill and you are once again giving into the desires of out-of-state trophy hunting interests, while ignoring the vital role these predators have on the health of our environment. We have more deer and elk than we have had in a generation, so why now are we focused on this. The answer is clearly to support Commissioner Tabor and his sons outfitting company now to allow for balance of species. This is a disgrace-period.

#4

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2023 9:29:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:58
IP Address: 184.167.22.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Helena Edelson
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: contact@largecarnivorefund.org

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Public Comment: Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Lesley Robinson, Chair
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dear Chair Robinson and fellow Commissioners,

Thank you for all the work you do, and for the opportunity to comment. Large Carnivore Fund (LCF) is based in Gardiner, Montana. We are stakeholders in the management and conservation of our native large carnivore species: land owners, fair chase hunters, ranchers, scientists, wildlife conservationists, wildlifers, as well as conservation lawyers, investors, and ecological statisticians specializing in predator models. Though historically adversarial, we've come together representing the millions who enjoy and appreciate the benefits of predators on the landscape.

We do not support and do not recommend the motion to “approve the validity of any unfilled mountain lion license on March 1, 2024, to include any LMU that has not reached the total or sex-specific quotas until those quotas are filled or the season end date is reached...” We would like to see proof of the correlation between lion predation and ungulates for biological justification of this drastic and premature action.

No increase should be made prior to completion of the ongoing state mountain lion monitoring program. The second recapture model for each ecoregion must be done. Any reduction in the lion population must be based on regional data because what works for one ecoregion is not the same for another. Time for analysis and reporting by all regional FWP biologists must be provided prior to decision making. The Commission's blatant disregard for this study wastes taxpayer dollars. We stand with the fair chase hound hunters.

This plan lacks an annual scientific feedback loop from monitoring and genetic sampling, verification of population health under this plan, and modification of the quotas year by year during the proposed six years under 40% reduction. And the potential to no longer distinguish between female and male lion kill could dramatically affect lion populations with an overharvest of females.

FWP continues to claim a shortage of deer and elk, while simultaneously implementing numerous policies for hunters to kill increasingly more of them. Look at the facts:

1. Montana has abundant big game, particularly deer and elk.
2. Ungulate populations fluctuate every five to 10 years.
3. These species are adapting to pressures both natural and human-caused, e.g. drought, harsh winters, habitat loss, and responding with changing their patterns out of necessity.
 - 3.a. Congregating in smaller size groups, more frequently on private lands.
 - 3.b. Those lands are often leased by the same outfitters driving the proposal for a 40% increase in mountain lion quota.
4. Numbers never factored into population counts are the 30,000 large animals killed in Montana road collisions each year. That's elk, deer, pronghorn, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, bears. Over 90 percent are white-tailed and mule deer. Wildlife are perishing in growing numbers on Montana's roadways.

Targeting mountain lions, or wolves and bears, given the myriad of real factors is not appropriate.

We ask the Commission to remember what makes Montana special compared to other states is our unique, full suite of native predator species on the landscape. Protecting them leads to stronger, more robust and resilient ungulate herds that thrive in Montana.

Helena Edelson
President and CEO
Large Carnivore Fund

#5

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Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:04:56 PM
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IP Address: 216.14.245.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: harold may
City/Town: Hall
State/Province: MT
Email Address: haroldmay@windstream.net

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

A proposal to increase the quota for mountain lions in 210 I think is great for on my land up on the Harvey Ridge area we see and have encountered numerous lions,

And the proposal to add more of the quota to the actual Fall hunting season is wonderful, for it gives every one a much greater opportunity to harvest a lion while they're spending so much more time in the woods hunting.

I just don't think your going to get the true data from those that are out chasing cats for profit.

#6

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Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:13:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:27
IP Address: 50.52.64.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dorian Boling**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dogsmontana@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I support the HDs that have not reach quotas by March 1st allow any tag to hunt untill the end of season. I do not support the removal of sex quotas, I like the male quota and female quota. I also support the removal of quotas for archery and general season.

#7

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:03:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:34:04
IP Address: 69.145.21.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: KC York
City/Town: Hamilton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: info@trapfreemt.org

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Large predators are at greater risk to over exploitation. However, that is where these mountain lion proposals are heading. Quotas were already raised and unmet. Why? The proclaimed goal to seriously reduce mountain lions is to increase deer populations. Where is the data on the lion populations? Why isn't the years of hunting mule and white tail hunter success, as well as lions, included in the proposals? The weather patterns and wildlife habitats? Killing predators is an easy, quick, feel good, unfair, unjust, and unsubstantiated response to the multiple systems at play in the ebb and flow of wildlife populations. Mountain lions have a far greater value than the ~\$4,000 outfitter price on their heads. We stand with the numerous houndsmen in opposing the reductions of mountain lions!

#8

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 3:26:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:17
IP Address: 172.56.113.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Elena Tillman**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

OPPOSE the increased quotas and the proposal to fill mountain lion tags where quotas not met.

#9

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 1:42:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:12
IP Address: 146.113.230.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: James Andriani
City/Town: Old Bridge
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: jandriani2001@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

This lion hunting serves no purpose unless you are promoting the slaughter of innocent animals. The running of a pack of dogs shows me there is no concern for the welfare of both species and to call it a hunt is ludicrous as the human drives in a truck with high powered weapons and using electronic devices .Please explain to me how this is considered a fair hunt? There is no scientific evidence to support the need to kill these animals.

#10

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IP Address: 69.145.61.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Linda Holenstein
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Dogsaregreatllc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

The wildlife are a larger source of income for the state if they are alive in their natural habits.

Far more valuable alive and available to the public to see than in one person's trophy room...doesn't that make sense or is that logic not political enough??

#11

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Time Spent: 00:04:12
IP Address: 98.97.35.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Daniel Armstrong**
City/Town: **Florence**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **daniel@anthill.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

No increase in killing should be approved until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations. We need good data to make good decisions.

#12

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Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:46:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:08
IP Address: 184.166.66.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Linda Holtom
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: holtom@mac.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Chasing wild animals is cruel and a perfect example of junk hunting. If a hunter is not capable of stalking game on his/her own, s/he needs to hang up the camouflage and find another hobby. I suspect no one in the State government has a clear scientifically accurate idea of how many mountain lions exist in Montana anyway, nor how much collateral damage is done to other species during the chases. What fun is there in worrying about animal species death rates when folks just want to go out and kill something after letting the dogs do the work.

#13

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:20:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:51
IP Address: 69.145.147.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jerome Walker, M.D.
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jeromemwalker@ gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Simply allowing dogs to chase mountain lions for "training purposes" makes life miserable for these magnificent animals, and should be eliminated. Again, until a scientifically sound and accurate census of mountain lion populations and also their effect, if any, on ungulate populations, there should be no change in quotas.

#14

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:10:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:46:39
IP Address: 69.146.207.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg M. Price
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gardengriz@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I am opposed to the increase in lion quotas in all areas they have been proposed. I am a hunter and support mountain lions' presence in natural abundance. Lion hunting in and of itself is unethical, but that is the norm in the hypocritical world of hunting ethics that apply only to certain animals, and even that is highly questionable. The notion that predator hunting increases ungulate numbers is deeply flawed and not supported by science. Improve habitat health and reduce some of the stress people inflict on ungulate populations and you will see more deer and elk. But pandering to self interest of consumptive hunting seems to be this commissions only priority, especially when one sees there are no wildlife professionals on the entire commission. Stop the war on predators. Irrational human demands should be resisted in the face of larger ecological truths that are well known. Predators are of absolute necessity when it comes to ecosystem health, as they serve nature in keeping herds at healthy numbers and culling sick and weak animals. Human hunting does nothing of the sort. Manage people more and wildlife less. Let the lions live their lives and do not increase quotas under the false reasoning that it will improve deer and elk numbers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Greg Price

#15

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 12:45:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:12
IP Address: 75.70.75.88

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kym Waugh
City/Town:	Denver
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	lilly1875@comcast.net

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

You should not be trying to increase the number of Mountain Lions killed. This is against good management as predators are essential for a healthy ecosystem. Do not kill Mountain Lions.

#16

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 2:43:15 PM
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IP Address: 174.45.171.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Lisa Robertson**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lisa292@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

The persecution of mountain lions for human recreation (chasing with dogs, hunting and killing) is unethical and contrary to Montana values. Lions are an extremely important part of the natural ecosystem, they thin out the sick and elderly ungulates, which improves the genetic health of the herds. This should be viewed as a favorable outcome for those who hunt elk and deer. Killing for fun and trophies are counter to the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Why would we want Montana to be an outlier from this national and popular standard?

#17

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 5:06:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:17
IP Address: 63.153.73.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Constance J Poten
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rattlefarm@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

July 23, 2023

RE: Mountain Lion Season Structure

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

Please read this article before making your decision on the mountain lion proposal.

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/local/environment/article277058703.html>

Takeaways:

“Conflict is more likely when you disrupt the population structure that the mountain lions are maintaining on their own,” warned Rosenau. Josh Rosenau is director of policy at the Mountain Lion Foundation.

The number of new sink populations in the U.S., where cougar death rates exceed birth rates, is growing year after year, Rosenau said — and that’s a major concern.

In a 2018 study, researchers found 215 species of beetles in prey animals killed by mountain lions. In turn, birds such as eagles and other migrating raptors rely on worms and insects in carcasses. The carrion is also a critical food source for other predators. Foxes depend on cougar prey during cold winters, and lion kills are critical for bears entering or emerging from hibernation. A 2017 study found that 39 species of birds and mammals visit puma kills — that’s the most scavenger species ever reported convening around a carcass.

Cougars also have profound indirect effects on their ecosystems through a phenomenon known as the “ecology of fear.” When you have apex carnivores on the landscape, the prey are more cautious, and that behavior has ripple effects. For one, the prey animals run out into the roads less, “which means about a million and a half dollars less per year in traffic accidents,” according to Rosenau. Moreover, a cougar in the area keeps game herds on alert, reducing the amount of time deer and elk spend browsing agricultural land, which means happier farmers, and riparian vegetation, which means healthier waterways.

There is no ecological reason to chase and harass mountain lions or to kill more mountain lions. Commissioner Tabor is pushing this proposal because he stands to benefit financially from more mountain lion hunting and chasing and should recuse himself. This proposal is all about the money. The department admits they have no clue about the relationship between mountain lions and ungulates.

Mountain lions, like wolves and grizzly bears, have intrinsic value to Montanans. Please don't turn them into trash and trophies. There are already plenty of people out there doing just that. It is reasonable to reject expanded chasing and killing of mountain lions because there is no good reason for it.

A proposal that causes conflict is not a good proposal. Reducing our wildlife to commodities benefitting special interests is not responsible management, it’s just a rip-off of our precious resource and goes directly against the tenets of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Please be conservative and keep the status quo.

Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Constance J Poten

Public Comment: Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

4175 Rattlesnake Dr
Missoula, MT 59802
rattlefarm@gmail.com

P.S. I am sending this to the Commission's email address because the online FWP Commission meeting page does not provide a way to submit comments. I would appreciate an email confirming that this letter will be included in the record.

#18

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:30:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:09
IP Address: 38.141.44.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Peg Brownlee
City/Town:	Florence
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	pegster153@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Commissioner Tabor must recuse himself from decisions that profit his outfitting business. The chasing of mountain lions for hound training, which is recreational, is cruel and unacceptable for these magnificent animals to endure. No increase in mountain lion killing should be approved. Lion hunting occurs for two reasons: trophy hunting and to reduce any competition for big game hunting. Lions are an important part of the ecosystem. There is no justification for unwarranted increase in lion quotas. The harassment and killing must cease immediately, and special interests such as outfitting should be severely penalized for their part in this slaughter.

#19

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:09:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:41
IP Address: 65.144.133.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nathan Varley
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: editor@wolftracker.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Please do not raise mountain lion quotas. There is really no science to support the need for it. Little is known about the status of most lion populations and their resilience to much higher mortality rates.

#20

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Time Spent: 00:00:54
IP Address: 69.146.14.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dorothy Filson**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **scotia111@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

The policy that allows the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is sadistic and cruel towards this majestic species of Montana wildlife and should be abolished.

Since there is not an approved scientific study that demonstrates the impact of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be allowed.

Ungulate populations are above desired, sustainable quota levels resulting in additional hunting seasons, starvation, and Chronic Wasting Disease. Predators help keep these undesirable outcomes in check.

Carrion left as a result of lion kills provide food for myriad other species, mammals and birds. The decline or decimation of mountain lions would have a negative cascading impact on a broad-ranging ecosystem.

Their presence on the landscape also invokes fear in prey species, keeping them alert and on the move, reducing their time eating agricultural crops and protecting riparian vegetation.

Maximizing “satisfaction” for lion hunters and social acceptance of lion hunting are not acceptable rationales for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. They are a vital part of wildlife, a public resource and should only be killed for a legitimate reason. This is according to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation (NAM).

This additional killing is for recreation only and a disgraceful, inhumane waste of a precious public resource for the benefit of a small special interest group. The majority of Americans do not approve of killing wildlife for recreation or trophies. It is time for the State of Montana’s laws and ARMs to align with public sentiment.

#21

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Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:34:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:24
IP Address: 65.131.207.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cliff Wenzek
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cwenzek3@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel and sustained punishment for these magnificent wild animals, simply for recreation. It should be abolished.

Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved.

Maximizing satisfaction for lion hunters, lion chasing, and social acceptance of lion hunting are not legitimate reasons for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. If anything, this will decrease social acceptance. Lion chasing causes cruel and extended suffering. Wildlife are public resources that should only be killed for legitimate reasons according to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation (NAM).

Rationale:

1. There is no scientific or public safety reason for expanding the already ample killing of mountain lions. There is no data on Montana's mountain lion population, yet FWP calls for a 10% - 40% reduction in mountain lions to increase elk and mule deer even though the agency admits "the specific relationships between mountain lions and ungulate populations in most LMUs have not been quantified."
2. This kill-off is for recreation! The majority of Montana's public wants to see mountain lions, not kill them. The Commission has an obligation to serve the public, not a small special interest group. Several of the main reasons noted by FWP for chasing and hunting mountain lions are "to maximize satisfaction for lion hunter opportunity, maximize satisfaction for lion harvest, maximize satisfaction for non-harvest lion chasing, maximize satisfaction for ungulate hunters, and maximize social acceptance of ion [sic] hunting."
3. Chasing mountain lions for sport causes cruel and extended suffering.
4. This goes against the tenets of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and against socially accepted norms. Even Mark Duda's survey American Attitudes Toward Legal, Regulated Fishing, Target/Sport Shooting, Hunting and Trapping which is biased in favor of hunting and trapping, shows that Americans do not approve of killing wildlife for recreation or trophies.

There are only two reasons for this sudden promotion to kill off mountain lions. One is for lion trophies, and the other is to reduce any competition for big game animal trophies. Don Peay's Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife is behind this call for slaughter. No studies have been done to indicate any justification for this unwarranted increase in killing mountain lions.

Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel and sustained punishment for recreation. It should be abolished. Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved.

#22

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:20:47 AM
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IP Address: 65.131.192.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Terry Zink
City/Town: Marion
State/Province: MT
Email Address: zinksbigskyarcherytargets@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

We have a on going mountain lion study as we speak. We increasing quotas 20 30 & 40 percent is unbelievably insane. We as tax payers are paying for study that is jumped over for this increase. The north west mountain lion ecological group came up with an increase of 12.5 over five years. Why wasn't this used in this was aThe north west mountain lion ecological group came up with an increase of 12.5 over five years. Why wasn't this used and this was agreed on. I would really like to know why the houndsmens voices aren't being heard, lion numbers aren't very good as we speak. Lion kitten recruitment is way done, we didn't find any kittens all season. I am a 3rd generation houndsman and last season was by far my worst season. The other houndsmen I know stating the same thing. So increasing lion quotas is completely unfounded for. I would like to why you are increasing lion numbers and decreasing wolf numbers. Lions are the easiest predator to control. We as houndsmen are the tool the FWP uses to control lion numbers. Again I was ok with the study groups 12.5 increase but not this insane increase to lion quota numbers. Don't bite the hand that feeds you. In region 1 we should be increasing with the lions 12.5 a across the board approach with lions wolves and black bears. I completely understand controlling predators because I am a lifelong bowhunter a love that second to none. We all have to remember even when we had the highest Lion numbers in the 80's to mid 90's we still had exceptional elk, moose and deer herds, especially in Region one, and then came the wolves.

Thanks, Terry Zink

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:18:10 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:19:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:31
IP Address: 184.166.227.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dan Struble
City/Town: Livingston, MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: oxylus2019@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Comment points:

Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel and sustained punishment for these magnificent wild animals, simply for recreation. It should be abolished.

Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved.

Maximizing satisfaction for lion hunters, lion chasing, and social acceptance of lion hunting are not legitimate reasons for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. If anything, this will decrease social acceptance. Lion chasing causes cruel and extended suffering.

Wildlife are public resources that should only be killed for legitimate reasons according to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation (NAM).

Rationale:

1. There is no scientific or public safety reason for expanding the already ample killing of mountain lions. There is no data on Montana's mountain lion population, yet FWP calls for a 10% - 40% reduction in mountain lions to increase elk and mule deer even though the agency admits "the specific relationships between mountain lions and ungulate populations in most LMUs have not been quantified."
2. This kill-off is for recreation! The majority of Montana's public wants to see mountain lions, not kill them. The Commission has an obligation to serve the public, not a small special interest group. Several of the main reasons noted by FWP for chasing and hunting mountain lions are "to maximize satisfaction for lion hunter opportunity, maximize satisfaction for lion harvest, maximize satisfaction for non-harvest lion chasing, maximize satisfaction for ungulate hunters, and maximize social acceptance of ion [sic] hunting."
3. Chasing mountain lions for sport causes cruel and extended suffering.
4. This goes against the tenets of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and against socially accepted norms. Even Mark Duda's survey American Attitudes Toward Legal, Regulated Fishing, Target/Sport Shooting, Hunting and Trapping which is biased in favor of hunting and trapping, shows that Americans do not approve of killing wildlife for recreation or trophies.

There are only two reasons for this sudden promotion to kill off mountain lions. One is for lion trophies, and the other is to reduce any competition for big game animal trophies. Don Peay's Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife is behind this call for slaughter. No studies have been done to indicate any justification for this unwarranted increase in killing mountain lions.

Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel and sustained punishment for recreation. It should be abolished. Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved.

#24

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:33:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:11
IP Address: 172.56.201.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kirk fleming
City/Town: Columbia falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: flemingkirk.86@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I understand quotas are set to maintain healthy populations etc. And I agree quotas should be met or as close as possible, allowing any unfilled license in an unfilled quota unit may be what it takes to accomplish this. I DO NOT agree with disregarding male/female specific quotas! This option would severely impact mt. Lion populations in most management units in a negative sense. This is NOT sound management in any way shape or form!

#25

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:12:04
IP Address: 192.161.71.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jennifer Nitz
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	grizzalo@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel for all the wildlife caught up in this. This is done for recreation and must be abolished.

Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved.

Maximizing satisfaction for lion hunters, lion chasing, and social acceptance of lion hunting are not legitimate reasons for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. Lion chasing causes cruel and extended suffering before death.

Wildlife are integral parts of intact ecosystems that should only be killed for legitimate reasons, if any exist, according to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation (NAM).

#26

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:35:44 PM
Time Spent: 01:52:52
IP Address: 23.138.152.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Amy Greer
City/Town: Corvallis
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sbalgreer@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

There is no approved scientific study quantifying mountain lion populations and showing the effect of lions on ungulate populations. Until there is no increase in killing is justified. Why is FWP calling for an increase in the reduction of mountain lions--they admit "the specific relationships between mountain lions and ungulate populations in most LMUs have not been quantified." I think the reason you want to increase the killing of mountain lions is to appease trophy hunters: Those who want to kill a mountain lion and those who want to get rid of competition for deer and elk. Now my comment on using hounds to chase and tree mountain lions: It is exceptionally cruel "recreation." And what sport/fair chase is there in having dogs do all the work and treeing a mountain lion for the human to kill?

Did you know that the Board of Prison terms has specific questions for inmates coming up for parole? One that stands out to me "is there any history of enuresis, arson, or TORTURING ANIMALS?" I believe humans who hunt mountain lions with dogs must certainly answer yes if being honest.

Thank you for your time.

#27

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:42:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:14
IP Address: 69.145.61.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Linda Holenstein
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Dogsaregreatllc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Isn't it obvious that Tabor is making a profit from MONTANA WILDLIFE he can't follow the rules so he gets to hold office a make the rules.....SCAMMMMMMM!!!!!!

I WANT OUR WILDLIFE PROTECTED !!!

Corruption is running RAMPANT!!!

Montana makes more revenue from live animals and not trophy hunting for one person's living room....how ABSERD!!! I VOTE SAVE THE WILDLIFE, stop trapping and illegal hunting!!!

#28

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:41:41 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:11:19 PM
Time Spent: 04:29:38
IP Address: 71.15.195.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Rosie Costain
City/Town: Belgrade
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rcostain@peopleandcarnivores.org

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I am submitting comments on behalf of People and Carnivores—a Montana-based nonprofit that uses human-carnivore conflict-prevention tools to protect people and property and keep carnivores like mountain lions from preying on livestock and otherwise causing harm to people, pets, and property. People and Carnivores urges the Commission to deny the department’s recommendation to allow unfilled mountain lion licenses to become eligible for use in any LMU that has not yet reached its quota.

Quotas set at the June 8 Commission meeting reason that increased mountain lion harvests “may benefit prey species or reduce human conflict.” It is unclear that these quotas will benefit prey species, as the department acknowledged “specific relationships between mountain lions and ungulate populations in most LMUs have not been quantified,” and therefore, rules should not be loosened to reach these unscientifically set quotas. Furthermore, lowering populations will not prevent conflicts with humans, livestock, or property. If management is focused on preventing problems through nonlethal conflict reduction, we can mitigate risks and do not need to control conflicts through population reductions. From our extensive experience and numerous projects putting conflict-prevention tools on the ground, we have notably seen no losses for humans, property, or lions.

Loosening license restrictions to meet quotas is a perfect example of a “slippery slope” rendering them meaningless. Instead, given the significantly increased quotas, we should first evaluate hunter desire and success before making additional changes to the season. For these reasons, we ask the Commission to choose Alternative B and deny the department’s recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and requests.

#29

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:11:01
IP Address: 184.166.97.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Vicki Kober
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	vickikober@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

No more mountain lions need be killed. The chasing of lions by hounds is cruel and, as usual, only those who derive pleasure from the suffering of animals benefit. Is this really something we want to increase in our society? It is not sport but sadism.

#30

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:45:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:46:26
IP Address: 208.70.13.191

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Angela James
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trolln406@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I oppose the unjustified increase in quotas proposed.

#31

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:55:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:00:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:28
IP Address: 23.138.152.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Marilyn Wolff
City/Town: Stevensville
State/Province: MT
Email Address: wolffmarilyn@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Commission: There is nothing fair about hunting mountain lions with dogs. Chasing these big cats is cruel and disgusting. Allowing this non sport, is for a minority of people who know nothing about fair hunting practices. No one on the commission that derives profit by outfitting on killing lions should recuse.

#32

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:10:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:44:58
IP Address: 98.97.112.69

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael Stoerger**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **gypsyjourney@protonmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Dear Madame Chair and Commissioners:

I strongly believe that FWP has no reliable scientific evidence of the actual mtn lion population in the state. Therefore, adopting a quota that will kill up to 40% of the cats is reckless and uncalled for. Furthermore, allowing the chasing of lions by hound "hunters" is ethically dubious and scientifically questionable. It appears to me that the motivation for FWP to do this is cultural- to promote more trophy hunting for the consumptive users and to feed the myth that less lions = more ungulates. Please stop your war on predators in Montana.

FWP subscribes to the tenants of the N. American Model of Wildlife Conservation. As such, wildlife are held in the public trust. Why are you breaking our trust in allowing a small minority of trophy hunters to kill a magnificent animal?

Treeing a mtn lion with the use of hounds is cowardly. There is no fair chase ethic in it at all. Not to mention, a hunter cannot properly sex a lion if its up a tree. {You can only determine sex from its backside, not when its staring back down at you from above}. This is pure blood sport, no matter how you spin it. Please reconsider.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#33

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Time Spent: 00:06:08
IP Address: 216.14.234.178

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dr. Kari Gunderson
City/Town: Swan Valley
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cnd2543@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I am a 3rd generation Montanan and have lived and worked in the Swan Valley for 45 years. Please see my comments below.

1. There should be NO chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April using hounds. It is cruel and inhumane form of recreation.
 2. There is inadequate scientific data that quantifies mountain lion populations and the effect of lions on ungulate populations, so there is no valid justification for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. The North American Model for Wildlife Conservation and Public Trust Doctrine should be honored and applied by FWP.
 3. There is no scientific justification or public safety reasons for the expansion of mountain lion harvests. It is purely for recreation or trophies.
 4. And the rationale for killing up to 40% more mountains lions is unacceptable., especially in the Swan Valley in Region 1. It only benefits outfitters and trophy hunters. More deer are hit and killed by motorists on Hwy 83 in Region 1 than are taken during hunting season. Please don't target mountains lions to justify increased ungulate harvests.
 5. I oppose the increased quotas and the proposal to fill mountain lion tags where quotas are not met.
 6. FWP Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from decisions that mean profits to his family's outfitting business in Region 1.
-

#34

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:08:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:20
IP Address: 69.146.93.140

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Barry Dutton
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: barry@landandwaterconsulting.net

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I am a graduate of Great Fall High and UM. I grew up in a hunting family where fair chase and personal consumption was the rule. It seems to me that many of the actions under consideration by the commission amount to cruel and unusual punishment for the animal kingdom. Chasing lions with hounds and shooting them from trees is disgusting cowardly and most of the population of Montana and the US thinks so. Let's get Montana out of the barbarian age and apply some modern compassion and respect for wildlife.

Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel and sustained punishment for these magnificent wild animals, simply for recreation. It should be abolished.

Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved.

Maximizing satisfaction for lion hunters, lion chasing, and social acceptance of lion hunting are not legitimate reasons for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. If anything, this will decrease social acceptance. Lion chasing causes cruel and extended suffering.

Wildlife are public resources that should only be killed for legitimate reasons according to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation (NAM).

#35

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:08:24
IP Address: 98.127.139.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Susan Kronenberger
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kronesue@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

END THE TRAPPING OF MOUNTAIN LIONS. it is causing great pain and suffering to numerous sentient beings.

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:49:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:35
IP Address: 184.166.240.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linda Healow**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lkhealow@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

There should be no use of hounds in the taking of mountain lions. It is not fair chase and is embarrassing. What a sad impression it gives to people outside Montana.

#37

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:05:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:42
IP Address: 146.115.190.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sarah Stewart
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sarahbstewart@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel and barbaric and we humans are better than this. Our wild animals, are not our commodities or toys. This treatment of mountain lions should be stop.

Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved at all.

Maximizing satisfaction for lion hunters, lion chasing, and social acceptance of lion hunting are not legitimate reasons for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. If anything, this will decrease social acceptance. Lion chasing causes cruel and extended suffering.

Wildlife are public resources that should only be killed for legitimate reasons according to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation (NAM).

#38

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Time Spent: 00:31:02
IP Address: 216.14.235.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rob Rich**
City/Town: **Condon**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rlrich3@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

1. Allowing the chasing of mountain lions from December through mid-April for hound training is cruel and sustained punishment for these magnificent wild animals, simply for recreation. It should be abolished.
 2. Maximizing satisfaction for lion hunters, lion chasing, and social acceptance of lion hunting are not legitimate reasons for killing up to 40% more mountain lions. If anything, this will decrease social acceptance. Lion chasing causes cruel and extended suffering.
-

#39

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Time Spent: 00:11:46
IP Address: 104.219.107.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Glenn Graham
City/Town: Redwood City
State/Province: CA
Email Address: glenngraham76@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

No increase in mountain lion killing should be approved. There is no scientific or public safety reason for expanding the already ample killing of mountain lions. The majority of Montana's public wants to see mountain lions, not kill them. The Commission has an obligation to serve the public, not a small special interest group.

Increased mountain lion killing for the "fun" of a tiny minority of people goes against the tenets of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and against socially accepted norms.

#40

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:43:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:28
IP Address: 174.45.65.76

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sharon Sutherland
City/Town: Belgrade
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sharisuth@charter.net

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Until a approved research study has done of mountain lion numbers, no increase in the number of lions killed should be allowed. There is NO scientific evidence that this is necessary.

Chasing lions from mid-Dec. to mid-April should not be allowed. Running these animals for dog training is abhorrent. Winter is the toughest time of the year for all species to survive.

And, it's time for MTFWP to include in its regulations the number of people who want to SEE lions, not just kill them. I am the only person I know who has been lucky enough to see one.

Elk and deer numbers are above target, so the only reason to kill more lions is for trophies, or to satisfy livestock interests, who are not losing a significant number of animals to bears, wolves or mountain lions

#41

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 65.144.133.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cara L McGary
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cara.mcgary@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I oppose both the recommendation to allow any mountain lion license that is unfilled on March 1, 2024, to become eligible for use in any LMU that has not yet reached its quota; and the other option to eliminate the sex-specific quotas and simply establish a single quota for total mountain lion harvest. Mountain lion population is unknown in most of Montana. The dramatic changes in lion quotas will impact the already unknown mountain lion population to an unknown extent. The quota changes implemented at the June 8th meeting will already undermine the ongoing and planned studies. These new proposed changes would further undermine FWP's ability to assess, monitor and manage mountain lion populations.

#42

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:11:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:53
IP Address: 63.153.106.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sally Blevins
City/Town: Darby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sallyandraven@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Allowing hounds to chase mountain lions for "training" is cruel and should be eliminated. Without comprehensive research on how mountain lions effect the ungulate population, it is unwise to increase the harvest quota.

#43

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:36:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:37
IP Address: 63.153.25.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lila Randolph-Poore
City/Town: Red Lodge
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 1lilamt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

Mountain lion hunt and chase seasons should not be extended until a scientific population study conducted by biologists has been completed. No hunting season should be determined without accurate data and an understanding of population dynamics and predator/prey relationships. Healthy ungulate populations require healthy predator populations to control sick and injured prey populations.

Trophy hunters typically seek out the largest healthiest predators which weakens all populations.

Conversely, when hunters use honor, respect and fair chase principles when hunting for food, it strengthens that case for hunting for all.

#44

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:32:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:33
IP Address: 72.174.1.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dave Stalling
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Stallingd@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Mountain lion season structure and quotas for fall 2023–winter 2024

I am an avid hunter and past president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, and I adamantly opposed to the ongoing, non-scientific killing and harassment of mountain lions in Montana, killing based on politics driven by myths, lies and misconceptions about these magnificent predators. These proposed regulations will make a bad situation even worse, and violate several tenants of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation — In particular, the tenants related to the public trust and that wildlife management be driven by science.

Wildlife should be managed based on what we know about their ecology and behaviors. Mountain lions are not. Mountain lions, like other predators, did not evolve with much predation. They are fairly self regulating with territorial and reproductive behaviors that can be altered and disrupted by killing them, often exacerbating the issues managers claim to be trying to solve.

Mountain lions are being managed based on politics influenced and controlled by relatively small special interest groups of hunters and agricultural interests.

Mountain lions should be protected and managed based on science, and all citizens should have a say in how they are managed. If adopted, these seasons and quotas for will further erode the declining trust many citizens have in Montana's ability to care for, protect and manage the wildlife and wild places that make Montana so special, and are held in trust by ALL citizens.
